

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1-14 are canceled. Claims 15 – 25 are added.

The new claim 15 corresponds to the original claim 3 and is rewritten in independent form including all the aspects described in the original claims 1 and 2.

The new claims 16 –20 are all dependent directly or indirectly from the new claim 15 and correspond to the original claims 4-8, respectively.

The new claim 21 corresponds to the original claim 9 and is rewritten in independent form including all the aspects described in the original claim 1.

The new claims 22 and 23 are all dependent directly or indirectly from the new claim 21 and correspond to the original claims 10 and 11, respectively.

The new claim 24 corresponds to the original claim 13 and is rewritten in independent form including all the aspects described in the original claims 1 and 12.

The new claim 25 is dependent from new claim 24 and corresponds to the original claim 14.

Support for the newly added claims are throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by the instant amendments. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter cancelled by this or a prior action in this or a subsequent continuation application.

Priority

The Office Action dated January 23, 2006 stated that the applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55.

On November 8, 2005, applicant filed an English-language translation of Japanese Application 2002-176485, filed on June 17, 2002 and Japanese Application 2002-223889, filed on July 31, 2002, from which priority is claimed. The applicant attaches hereto a copy of the return receipt postcard with the PTO stamp for the proof of filing of the translation, a translation of the above identified priority applications and a certification of the translation thereof.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP5679451, col. 1-7.

Claims 9, 10, 11 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In order to expedite the examination, applicant canceled claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 12-14 and rewrote objected claims 9, 10, 11 and 13 in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (please see amended claims 15-25), as suggested by the examiner.

Applicant believes that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within response. However, if for any reason a fee is required or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Application No. 10/517,971
Amendment dated April 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2005 January 23, 2006

Docket No.: 62527(49227)

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: April 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 梅澤淳

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Limited Recognition Under 37 C.F.R. § 11.9(b)
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